



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

media@myfloridahouse.gov

(850) 717-5780

Higher Education Tuition Breaks Legislation Advances in Committee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (*March 8, 2021*) — Today, in the second week of Regular Session of the Florida House of Representatives, three bills dedicated to expanding access to higher education through tuition breaks passed their second committees.

Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, who highlighted these issues during his Organization Session [speech](#) last November, thanked the Members of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee for swift passage of the legislation.

“In November, I challenged our members to find ways to open more doors of higher education to more of Florida’s students, and these bills will do much to expand their access,” said Speaker Sprowls. “I look forward to seeing these bills become law so Florida can continue to lead the way in the promise of quality education and employment outcomes for our students.”

The Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee passed three bills, HB 845, HB 1261 and HB 1273, to expand access to higher education and help improve the workforce to better meet the economic needs of Florida.

HB 845, introduced by Representative David Smith, R-Winter Springs, offers nontraditional students, veterans and active members of the military one free online course and a tuition discount on online courses when enrolled in a state university online baccalaureate program. It passed 13-0.

HB 1261, introduced by Representative Jackie Toledo, R-Tampa, encourages state university students to enroll in programs linked to high-demand jobs and in critical workforce need programs by giving students a “Buy One, Get One Free” option for upper-level courses. It passed 12-2.

HB 1273, introduced by Representative Patt Maney, R-Fort Walton Beach, attracts talented young students to Florida by allowing those out-of-state students to have their out-of-state fees waived at a public university if they are a grandchild of a Florida resident. It passed 15-0.

All three bills will have their final stop in the Education & Employment Committee before heading to the House Floor upon committee passage.

The bills can be viewed here:

[Representative Smith’s HB 845](#)

[Representative Toledo’s HB 1261](#)

[Representative Maney’s HB 1273](#)

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